

Legio IIII Martia

XLIII. Legio IIII Martia. Column 1556. Tr. Uwe Bahr.

Leg. IIII Martia appears in the Not or. XXXVIII v.22 (sub dispositione viri spectabilis ducis Arabiae) as the second resident legion in this province: praefectus legionis quartae Martiae Betthoro; von Domaszewski (Festschrift für H. Kiepert 1898, 69) believes that ancient Betthoro is the modern Leggûn. It is not recorded who established the legion; but at the latest it was Diocletian, during his reorganization of border control in the east. Possibly, however, the legion's creator was Aurelian, when he partly replaced native garrisons, which had been wrecked under Palmyrene rule, with new units taken from the western armies (see Ritterling Festschrift für Hirschfeld 1903, 347,4) The numbering of the legion indicates that its creator intended it as reinforcement of the occupation forces of Arabia: this was selected to follow the numbering of the province's legion up to then, III Cyrenaica (see Ritterling elsewhere).